Constellation Schools
Old Brooklyn Community Middle

The Importance of Attendance and Punctuality!

Dear Old Brooklyn Community Middle School Families,

As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2026–2027 school year, we want to reinforce the importance of daily attendance and punctuality. Every minute in school matters—academically, socially, and emotionally. Being present and on time helps your child succeed and supports a positive school community.

Tracking Absences: What Families Need to Know

Ohio's New Attendance Law (House Bill 96)

Ohio has a new attendance law that focuses on helping students attend school regularly.

The law now looks at chronic absenteeism, which means a student has missed 10% or more of the school year, whether the absences are excused or unexcused.

Under House Bill 96, schools must closely track both excused and unexcused absences, not just by days—but by the actual number of hours and minutes missed. This includes late arrivals, early dismissals, and partial-day absences. These minutes add up quickly and impact your child's total attendance record. Here's how it works:

Example:

- Leaving 15 minutes early each day adds up to over an hour by the end of the week.
- Missing 3 full days equals over 18 hours—already a quarter of the way to the yearly limit for habitual truancy.

It is important to call the school to excuse your child's absence. It prevents them from being marked with unexcused time, which can accumulate quickly. Even short absences—just an hour or two—count toward the total, and if left unexcused, they may lead to your child being considered habitually truant under state law. Timely communication helps ensure your child stays in good standing and avoids triggering formal attendance interventions.

Why Attendance and Punctuality Matter

- **Consistent Learning:** Regular attendance ensures students receive essential instruction and stay on pace with their peers.
- **Building Habits:** Being on time builds responsibility, self-discipline, and reliability—skills that benefit students now and in the future.
- **Academic Success:** Students who attend school regularly perform better academically.
- **Social Development:** Being present every day helps students connect with teachers and peers, supporting a positive school experience.

We understand that sometimes absences are unavoidable due to illness or emergencies. However, we ask all families to prioritize school attendance and arrive on time each day. If your child must miss school, please notify the school and provide a valid reason.

Working Together

We are committed to supporting your child and maintaining a caring, structured learning environment. By partnering with you, we can ensure that all students have the best opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Let's work together to make the 2025–2026 school year a strong and successful one!

Sincerely,

Katherine Rybak - Executive Principal
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